

FINAL BILL REPORT

ESB 5925

C 297 L 09
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Regarding insurance for higher education students participating in study or research abroad.

Sponsors: Senators Shin, Kastama, Jacobsen, Berkey, Hobbs, Franklin, Hargrove and Kohl-Welles; by request of University of Washington.

Senate Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development
House Committee on Higher Education

Background: Institutions of higher education (institutions) may make any type of insurance available for regents, trustees, and students. The governing boards may make available and pay the costs of health benefits for graduate students holding graduate service appointments and their immediate families.

A number of students choose to participate in studies and research outside the United States. Some of these study or research abroad activities and student exchanges are administered by the institutions themselves while others are sponsored by independent organizations or the federal government. Many of the independent providers require proof of health insurance as a condition of participation. While many Washington institutions of higher education strongly encourage students to review their insurance coverage before participating in these overseas programs, they are not authorized to require insurance coverage.

Summary: As a condition of participation in study or research abroad programs that are sponsored, arranged, or approved by an institution of higher education, students may be required to purchase approved insurance that will provide coverage for expenses incurred as a result of injury, illness, or death, if the student does not already have adequate insurance. Participating students may also be required to have insurance coverage that includes emergency evacuation or repatriation of remains. The institution may bear all or part of the costs of the insurance.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	41	5	
House	66	32	(House amended)

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Senate 34 12 (Senate concurred)

Effective: July 26, 2009